

Lesson
2

Using Prepositional Phrases

Teaching

A **prepositional phrase** is always related to another word in a sentence. It modifies the word in the same way an adjective or adverb does.

An **adjective phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun. It can tell *which one*, *how many*, or *what kind*.

The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. (The phrase of the *United States* modifies the noun *capital*.)

An **adverb phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It usually tells *where*, *when*, *how*, *why*, or *to what extent*.

Modifying a verb Many Americans travel in the summer. (The phrase *in the summer* modifies the verb *travel* telling *when*.)

Modifying an adjective New York City is remarkable for its public buildings. (The phrase *for its public buildings* modifies the adjective *remarkable*.)

Modifying an adverb The street system works well for such an old plan. (The phrase *for such an old plan* modifies the adverb *well*.)

Placement of Prepositional Phrases Place the prepositional phrase close to the word it modifies, so you don't confuse your readers.

Confusing Excited tourists walk down the mall with ice cream bars.

Better Excited tourists with ice cream bars walk down the mall.

Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. If it is an adjective phrase, write **ADJ** on the line to the right. If it is an adverb phrase, write **ADV**.

1. The capital of a country should be a beautiful city.
2. Any visitor to Washington, D.C., will see that it is, indeed, beautiful.
3. Visitors are impressed by its broad avenues.
4. The President lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.
5. The White House is an impressive residence with lovely rose gardens.
6. The national mall was built near the White House.
7. The tall Washington Monument appears on the mall.
8. The Lincoln Memorial with its brooding statue is thought provoking and peaceful.
9. Cherry trees around the Tidal Basin are colorful and inspiring.
10. The Capitol is the home of the United States Congress.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

In each sentence, underline the word modified by the boldfaced prepositional phrase. On the blank, write **ADJ** or **ADV** to identify what kind of prepositional phrase it is.

1. The actors gathered **around the director**. _____
2. In the science classroom, there are many books **on wildlife**. _____
3. The raging fire spread **over the river** and through the trees. _____
4. **Until next week** the paintings will be on sale at a hotel near Tulsa. _____
5. Music **from the auditorium** could be heard across the hall. _____
6. The oak trees behind the school were sprayed **in the spring**. _____
7. The plant on the windowsill thrives **in the sun**. _____
8. The car came **down the street** and parked outside our house. _____
9. The model airplane **in my brother's room** was made in Germany. _____
10. The monkeys ran from the sound **of humans**. _____

B. Placing Prepositional Phrases

Rewrite each sentence, changing the position of one or more prepositional phrases so that the sentence is no longer confusing.

EXAMPLE In a big hurry, we saw the senator rush away.
We saw the senator rush away in a big hurry.

1. The tourists with a special display visited the museum.

2. Karen sent her father in a sturdy box a souvenir.

3. I took a picture of the president with my new camera.

4. The tour bus with its beautiful flowers passed the national garden.

5. My father beyond the monument parked the car.

Using Prepositional Phrases

Application

A. Revising Sentences with Misplaced Prepositional Phrases

Rewrite each sentence, changing the position of one or more prepositional phrases so that the sentence is no longer confusing.

EXAMPLE Below the waves we watched the sun sink.
We watched the sun sink below the waves.

1. We waited for the bus inside the mall.

2. Behind the clouds we saw the sun disappear.

3. Alonzo was walking his dog in his school sweater.

4. Inside a tube, Kathy sent her mother a poster.

5. The cook with a sour smell threw away the milk.

B. Using Prepositional Phrases as Adjectives and Adverbs

Add a prepositional phrase to each sentence. The type of phrase to add is indicated in parentheses after the sentence.

1. The city is the U.S. government center. (Add an adjective phrase.)

2. The president spoke to reporters. (Add an adverb phrase.)

3. The Secret Service checked the dining room. (Add an adverb phrase.)

4. Supporters cheered the president. (Add an adjective phrase.)

5. Cars were parked at the curb. (Add an adjective phrase.)
